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MODERN TIMES

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West Haven Typo Workers

Local Union Target of Pay Board Suit

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

Nixon's Pay Board, as a demonstration of its power has brought a tiny West Haven Local of the International Typographical Union (ITU) into Federal Court demanding that they repay a slight excess over the 5.5% standard they won in a strike last December.

The 39 members of Local 47 of the ITU work for the Meredith Corporation, located at 135 Woods St. in West Haven. According to the Pay Board, the union went on strike between December 2 and December 5, 1971 and demanded a pay increase above the Pay Board guideline of 5.5%.

The 2 year agreement between Local 47 and Meredith called for a 7.45% wage increase retroactive to November 14. The government is asking the court for an injunction against the wage increase, fines of $2500 against both the union and the company, and the repayment by workers of wages in excess of the 5.5% guideline to the company.

The collective sum the government is asking the workers to pay back comes to just $4,000, or roughly $100 per worker. If the government wins the suit the union loses in terms of the fine, the paying back of wages and future increases.

The government is suing the union on the basis of the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970--this is the law Nixon is using for wage and price controls. Nixon's executive order, permitted under the law, states: "No person shall...use any means to obtain payment of wages and salaries in any form higher than those permitted.., whether by retroactive increase or otherwise." In other words, strikes for wage increases higher than the wage board limit of 5.5% are illegal.

See UNION Page 3

Editorial

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The right of American working people to strike and win improvements in wages and working conditions is under attack in the case of the small West Haven Typographer's Local who have been sued by the Pay Board.

The way that companies could prevent strikes 50 years ago was to get a court injuntion. Working people removed this power of the courts to force them back to work with the passage of the Norris-LaGuardia Act in 1930. The Taft-Hartley Law in 1947 gave the President the right to get a court injunction (for 80 days) in the case of a so-called "national emergency." The current court case, if Nixon wins, will restore the right of the courts to stop a strike, or the gains of a strike, by injunction.

Larger unions (mineworkers, longshoremen) have recently had long strikes and sizeable wage increase–all over 10%–even though some were reduced from higher levels. The Pay Board dealt very carefully with the large unions that could cripple the economy. Nixon has chosen to deal with them another way, by trying to push a "Crippling Strikes prevention Act" through Congress.

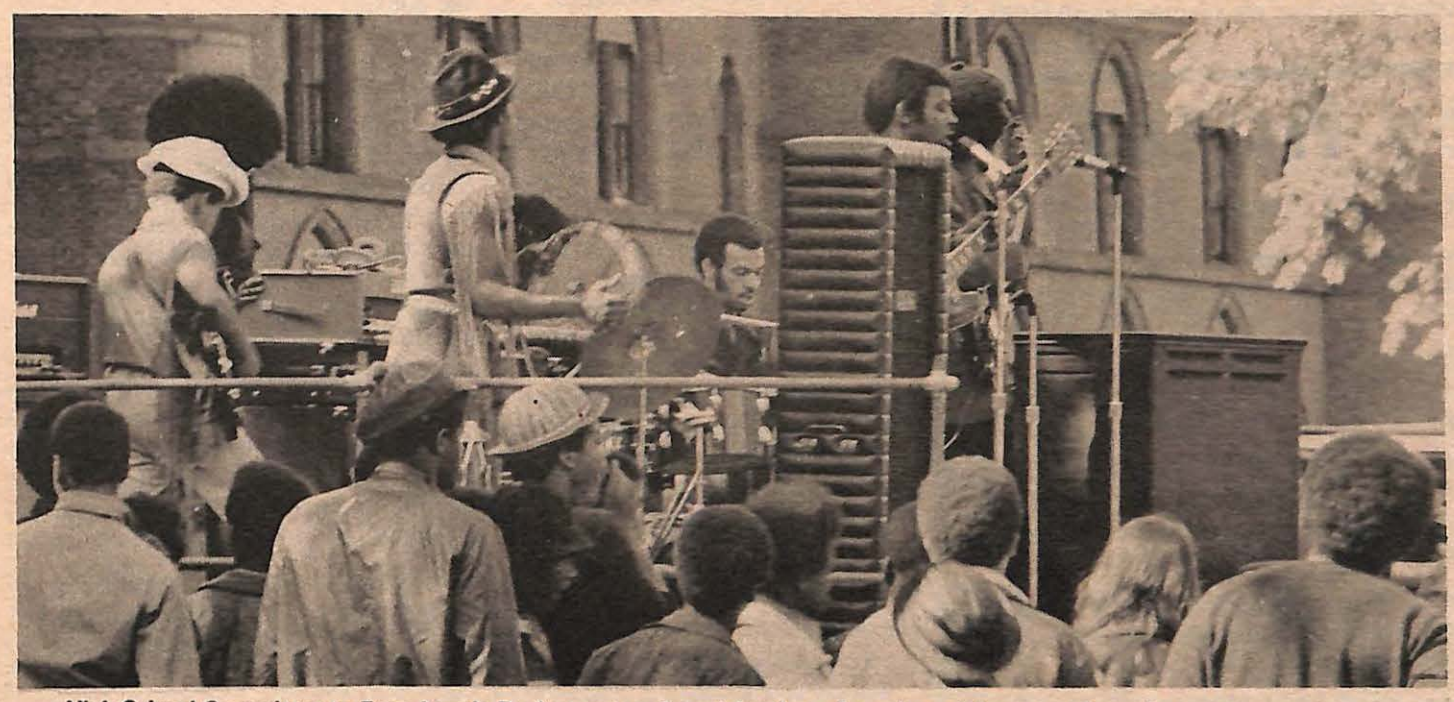
The other approach is to bring unions into court to stop wage increases and to stop strikes for wage increases over the guideline of 5.5%.

Nixon's executive order that started Phase II plainly states that it is against the law to strike for wage hikes about 5.5%. The current court case in New Haven is basically a test of this executive order.

What can be done about this? The recent history of the pay board shows that it won't act so boldly with the larger unions. The large national unions should strongly oppose this backhanded court suit against a tiny local. A decision against the typographers in New Haven is a direct threat against the right to strike!

A new form of Collective Bargaining– when you win the strike, you give the money back.

Youth Fest Held On Green



High School Committee to Free Angela Davis sponsored a celebration of music and drama on Saturday, June 10, to celebrate the acquittal of Angela Davis. See stories on page 4. (M-T photo by Sergio Verrillo).

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PRAY FOR THE DEAD AND FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING!!

CitizensConfabCalled

A group of concerned people in the Third Congressional District, in a statement issued today, announced a call for a Citizens' Convention, to be held in New Haven on the weekend of July 21st. A spokeswoman told **Modern Times** that the Convention was to be an open forum for discussion, and that any platform and any decision on whether or not to run or support candidates in the 3rd District would be made by the people attending the convention.

John Williams, the chairman of the group and a prominent New Haven civil liberties attorney, stated that the Convention will be open to all people who are fed up with broken promises, empty rhetoric and arrogant, unresponsive government. It will consider the problems of the endless war which our leaders refuse to end, inflation, unemployment, racism at home and abroad, and the oppression of women in American life.

"We want to determine," Williams asserted, "whether the old parties and their candidates can be expected to do anything about these problems. Our Congressional leaders speak for peace, then vote the funds to rain ever-increasing destruction and death on the hapless populations of Indo-China. Our war-profiteering economy has made tax slaves of working people, while the politicians create tax loopholes for the rich.'

Community Involvement

Sponsors of the Convention said that the citizens of this community must begin to come together, forge new priorities and make our political process democratic and responsive. "We must overcome the tragedy of our alienation from one another and join together in the making of policies, the formulation of goals and the selection of officials."

The members of the sponsoring committee of the Citizens' Convention include Joseph Dimow, Shirley Hahn, Alan Kay, Milada Marsalka, Al Marder, Bill Morico, Virginia Simon, Jack Smith, Willard Uphaus and Bertha Waller. In their statement, the committee said it welcomes all concerned citizens wishing to join in planning the Convention. For further information call 776-3334.

from Voice of 1707

Co-ops Petition Mayor

by Jim Jordan

A petition demanding either an abatement or a freeze on property tax rates was presented by tenants of three low and moderate income housing cooperates to Mayor Guida and the Board of Alderman at a meeting held Thursday night, June 8.

The petition, signed by 230 families from Florence Virtue, Columbus Mall, and Liberty Square Co-ops, was a response to the impact of the 9.6 mil property tax rate hike upon the members' monthly carrying charges.

Tom Laurent, a member of the Board of Directors of the LIberty Square Co-Op, spoke with **Modern Times** of the rapid deterioration of the buildings since their construction in the early 1960's.

Within two years a boiler had to be replaced at the cost of $3000. Heating pipes, floors and other major units have required constant maintenance since construction, making it impossible for members to get out of debt and to save money for improvements.

Who Should be Taxed?

While Yale University and the Churches of New Haven that serve people from outside the inner-city area are not taxed, the co-ops are unable to avoid deterioration because of tax increases added to the maintenance problems.

Laurent noted that some members of the co-ops are paying over 25% of their income for housing, a cost which is above federal and state guidelines for low and moderate income families. Those who rent are hurt even more, as they cannot deduct the costs from their income tax.

The construction company in charge of the three co-ops is currently working on the Church Street South Housing units.

Aides Vote Union In

by Karen Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Once again paraprofessionals in the New Haven area won an important victory. On May 26, at Tater Hall in Hamden, all 17 teacher aides at the Hamden New Haven Cooperative Educational Center voted unanimously to have Local 1303 of Council 4, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, represent them for collective bargaining.

Other paraprofessional groups in the area are also active. The New Haven Aides who are also organized under Local 1303 are in the process of trying to work out a settlement with the New Haven Board of Education. The negotiations are at an impass and the union has filed for fact finding meetings.

In Hamden, the Aides are unionized in Local 431 of Council 4, AFSCME, and are already under contract. Their contract will expire in September 1973.

Education Center In Arts

Are you involved in the arts? The new Educational Center for the Arts, which serves all of the 17 area towns, is now accepting applications for their fall program. Classes, coordinated with your high school curriculum, will be held at the Arts Center, Audubon Street area in New Haven.

The Educational Center for the Arts is unique because it asks students to share in the shaping of her or his own art and talent. The school will try to provide within a wide range of all the arts, the experience desired by each student. In surroundings favorable to serious exploration, youth will have the chance to discover their artistic potential.

The Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) has distributed posters and information leaflets to area schools, community centers, libraries, and music and art stores. If you are in high school and into the arts, or know anyone who is, ask for details where you see a poster, or call (203) 562-9967.

Women Back In Court

by Renee Poirier
Modern Times Staff

Women vs. Connecticut has returned to the Courts to continue its battle against the State's anti-abortion law.

On Friday, June 9, the group was granted a hearing on two previously filed motions. The first motion, seeking to have Governor Meskill cited for contempt of court, was denied for being "irrelevant" since he alone cannot pass the new anti-abortion law, but was aided by the Legislature, which would have to be cited as a whole.

With the second motion, Women vs. Connecticut sought to have the court enforce its injunction against the first anti-abortion law, which was ruled unconstitutional by the same three judge panel that presided over today's hearing. It is the group's belief that the second law, which is more strict than the first, is equally unconstitutional, therefore subject to the same injunction.

The women presented two pregnant plaintiffs seeking immediate relief, and requested that they be allowed to have abortions.

On Monday, June 12th, papers will be filed by Women vs. Connecticut giving further evidence concerning the situation of the two pregnant plaintiffs.

The hearing on the merit of the case for enforcing the injunction, which will aid all women seeking abortions will begin on Friday, June 16.

Also on Monday, the 12th, Women vs. Connecticut's lawyers and those for the State will meet to discuss what type of evidence will be presented at Friday's hearing. The State indicated interest in having a hearing at which witnesses would testify. Today's hearing was argued only by lawyers, although it was open to the public.

Rhea Hirschman, a spokeswoman for the group, expressed their opinion of the Court's denial of the contempt request, by saying, "We don't consider the contempt citation denial a defeat, because it is peripheral to the central question of the constitutionality of the new statute. What is most important is that we show the Court, for a second time, that the strict abortion legislation denies women a fundamental constitutional right."

Hirschman went on to say that Women vs. Connecticut is meeting with women in the State to find out their feelings about the case, to discuss details, explain ramifications and give information.

She also said that the group has been deluged with calls and letters from women all over the state who are enraged at the State's attitude.

They encourage anyone who is interested in more information to call the Women vs. Connecticut office at 436-0364.

Community Notes

HILL EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Hill Neighborhood Corporation has proposed the formation of the Employment Development Corporation (EDC). EDC is designed to "meet the needs of the labor force, tenants and landlords in the Hill."

The Corporation would solicit master craftsmen (electrician, plumber, etc.) to train and supervise Hill residents in rehabilitating housing units in the Hill. The program will thus provide jobs while bringing living units up to the housing code.

EDC is being designed to improve landlord-tenant relationships by establishing a negotiation procedure to reduce conflicts.

TEEN SELF HELP

Teen Self Help, Inc. will operate a Car Care Center to provide summer jobs for Hill teenagers this summer. The project will be located at 296 Columbus Ave., in a garage at the rear of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation.

The Center will offer a complete wash and wax for $8.50--of which $6.00 is for labor ($2.00 per teen per car). A non-profit organization, the project will be supervised by staff from the HNC and the Teen Center.

Inn Workers Win Significant Victory

As Stratford's Public House Restaurant reopened for business today following a 24-day strike, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union Local 217 released the details of contract settlements ratified last Saturday by workers at both the restaurant and the adjoining Stratford Motor Inn.

John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 217, hailed the restaurant contract as "a significant victory over a crude attempt by a giant of our industry to roll back the clock on wages, benefits, and working conditions." The agreement with Restaurant Associates Industries, Inc., of New York was approved in a secret ballot exmployee vote with only one dissent.

The contract covering the motel, which had remained open during the strike with Motor Hotels, Inc. management doing the work, was approved by the workers unanimously.

First Contracts Negotiated

These contracts are the first negotiated in the Bridgeport area by New Haven-based Local 217 since its February merger with the now-defunct Local 288.

Wilhelm commented that "It is too bad management forced a strike, but we hope now that other Bridgeport area hotel and restaurant operators now realize we are serious about bringing higher standards to the industry there."

The one-year Publick House contract, retroactive to March 16, 1972, secures a 25 cents per hour wage increase for most workers which the Union had claimed they were due under an escalator clause in the old contract. Banquet department employees also got a 25 cent per hour raise, and cooks got 45 cents an hour as a result of compressing the number of different cook classifications from five to three.

The motel contract is generally along similar lines. It is a two year contract with wage increases totaling 20 cents per hour. According to Wilhelm, "Substantial changes in contract language were made, resulting in improvements in overtime, paid holidays and vacations, and other benefits for tipped employees, an improved grievance procedure, better language governing layoffs, and other similar protections."

Retained Fringe Benefits

Also, according to Wilhelm, "we retained all of our fringe benefits. These are far and away the finest in our industry in greater Bridgeport, and management had sought to reduce them." As an example, Wilhelm cited medical insurance, for which Restaurant Associates pays full family coverage for the Blue Cross Semi-Private Plan with Maternity and Drug Rider and the CMS Century Plan.

There was an agreement that employees will be credited with seniority for vacation and other purposes for all the years they have worked at the Stratford Motor Inn, not just the one year Motor Hotels, Inc., has operated it, and an agreement to abritrate the dismissal in March of Mrs. Shirley Poupart of Shelton, the Union Steward.

The Union's Negotiating Committee in the Publick House included Peter Mesavage of Stratford, bartender; Mark Williams of Huntington, maintenance; Joseph Caserta, banquet waiter, David Ostrom, cook, and Vincent Ribas, busboy, all of Shelton; and Stanley Orzechowski of Branford, waiter.

Union Sued For Strike Gains

Continued from page 1

Obviously, no one in the government believes that the 7.45% increase of the 39 workers is a threat to economic stability. The increase is less than 2% above the standard, an amount granted to other groups of workers with ease. The aim of the government is to use this as a test case to see how enforceable the law is and to exert stronger controls over small enterprises.

The Pay Board enforcement has been very inconsistent. It has provided exceptions for cost-of-living, productivity improvements and other special factors. In the case of the West Coast dockworkers, the Board reduced the settlement to first year increase of 14.9%.

Defendents Named

The Federal suit names the Meredith Corporation, Local 47 of the ITU, David Redmon, president of Local 47, and Earle Bragdon, chairman of the negotiation committee. In an affidavit to the court, Redmon explained that before the strike, the workers earned $185 per week and the new contract settlement brought the wages up to $200 per week. He also claimed that Meredith agreed to pay its printers in Des Moines, Iowa $199.50 per week last August and that printers working for the New Haven Register and Journal Courier get $202.50 per week.

Meredith Corporation is a communications company from Des Moines, Iowa, with five major operation divisions, including printing of magazines. A branch of their printing operation is located in West Haven.

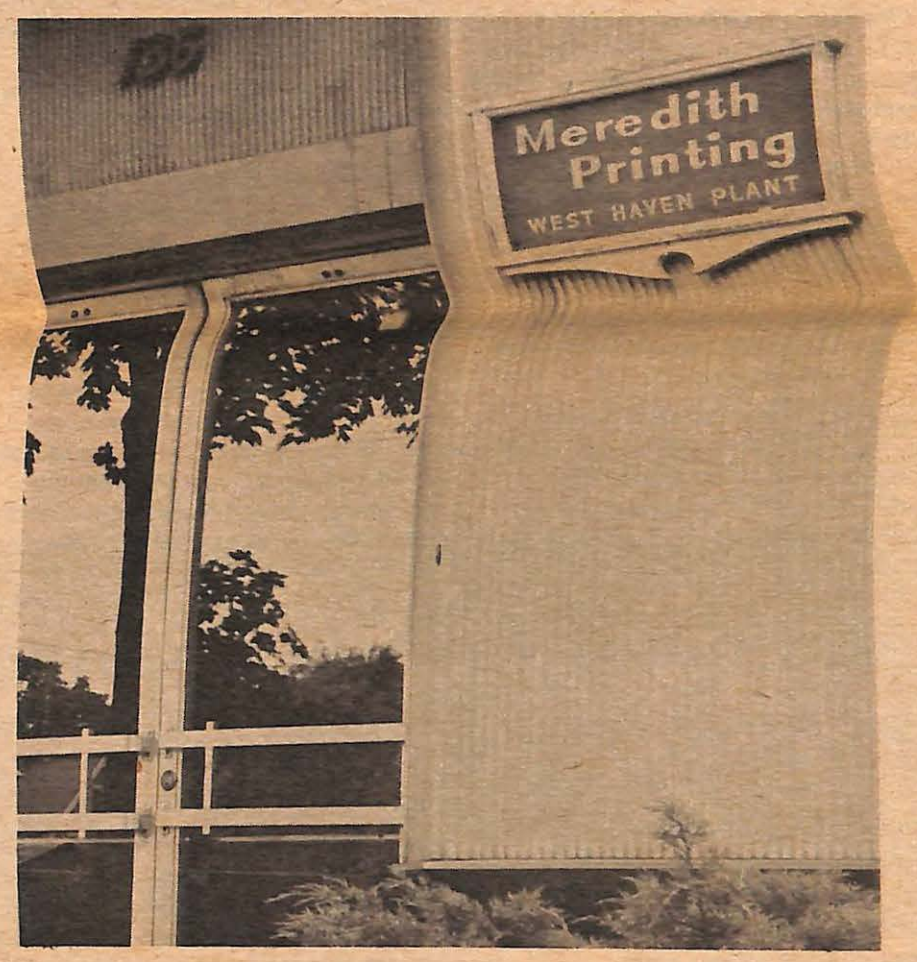
Negotiations of the ITU with Meredith began last June. No agreement was reached when the contract expired on August 23. The company at that time was offering a 7.45% wage increase. Negotiations continued through November when Meredith claimed that it would not, in fact, go above the 5.5% Pay Board limit.

A strike began at the West Haven plant on December 2 and continued until December 5 when both parties agreed to the original 7.45%. Meredith claims that it had contracts to fulfill for periodical magazines with deadlines and was forced to settle the strike. The government claims that the union authorized a strike instead of asking for a formal exception from the Pay Board.

Court Sets Trend

A precedent for court procedure was set on April 26 when a Federal court ruled against a 77 member local of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters in Baltimore. The Meat Cutters struck the A&P warehouse from November 13 to November 21 and won a 15.5% increase. The April 26 court decision denied the wage increase and forced a rollback to about 7%. Fines of $2500 were levied against both the union and the A&P. The union members were not asked to pay back the wages received until the court decision. The decision is now up for review by the special Federal Court of Appeals created under the Economic Stabilization Act.

The crucial problem now facing unions is that if the courts uphold these decisions the government has gained the power to outlaw strikes or forcibly roll back wages increases won by strikes.



Meredith Printing Company-where hard negotiations result in wage increases that the government wants the workers to give back to the company out of their own pockets! (M-T photo by Peter Irvine.)

Labor Notes

PAMPHLETS FOR UNIONISTS

1. *Occupations Safety and Health Act , International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, 570 New Brotherhood Building, Kansas City, Kansas 66101. 24 pages. Single copy free.*

This booklet is designed to inform union members on the new Occupational Safety and Health Act, its weaknesses and strengths and the role union members must play in its enforcement.

2. *Paperback Library*
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 15 Union Square, New York, N.Y. 10003. Folder. Free.

A wide selection of paperback books is available to all union members at one-third off the list price through the ACWA Paperback Library. Folders describing the books available will be sent on request.

3. *Films for Labor*

AFL-CIO Pamphlet Division. 815 16th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 10006. 86 pages. Single copy free, 45 cents each additional copy.

This is revised edition of the film catalogue, which describes the more than 300 films available from the AFL-CIO film Library. The catalogue contains a center section featuring new films on health care, civil rights, political education, and labor history. It explains how unions, schools and other groups can order films and the rental fee charged.

THE LOCAL LABOR SCENE

I. CUSTODIANS SETTLE WITH CITY

The school custodians in New Haven, members of Local 287 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) have finally reached a contract agreement with the city. The contract calls for a $900 increase over two years. Negotiations began in February of 1971 and the last contract expired on June 30, 1971.

II. TEACHERS FIGHT MEDIATION

On June 1, a State judge heard arguments from lawyers representing the New Haven Federation of Teachers and the Board of Education on an injunction asked for by the union. The Board has declared an impasse in current negotiations and has asked for mediation. The union claims that such a move is ridiculous because the contract has not yet been fully discussed in face-to-face negotiations and there are three months left before the contract expires. The union is asking for an injunction to force the board back to the bargaining table. The judge was too busy to hear members of the union testify in court so he met with the lawyers in his chambers. The decision is expected on June 16.

III. OLIN NEARS THE DEADLINE

International Association of Machinists, Lodge 609, representing 1400 production workers at Olin is in the midst of intensive negotiations for a new contract. The current contract expires on July 1. Seventeen negotiation sessions have already been held between the union and the company. Local 609 would not like to release any of the details of the talks until the issues become clearer.

Angela Davis Aquitted: Trial Wasted A Million

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

After a surprisingly short 13 hours of deliberation, an all-white jury from the most conservative area in California unanimously declared Angela Davis innocent of all charges.

In a New Haven press conference following the verdict, Gregory Stanton, Chairman of the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis, called the trial "racist, anti-communist and male supremacist. Why else would she be put needlessly on the Ten Most Wanted List? Why else would the love motive be used?" he asked.

Referring to the decision of the jury as "a defeat for Nixon," Stanton pointed out that her treatment infringed on the freedom of speech, a constitutional right. He linked the repressive policies of the government in this case to the war in Vietnam: "In times when there are supposedly no funds for badly needed low-rent housing, elderly housing, education and medical care, state and national governments waste billions of dollars."

$1 Million

"The State of California was able to find $1 million to persecute Angela Davis. The State of Connecticut found $2 million to persecute Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins. The national government found $40 billion to commit genocide in Indo-China." He called the mass movement around Angela a rejection of these policies.

The New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis commended the jury for not "capitulating with the state, but disassociating itself from the repressive side of the judicial system."

The Committee emphasized, however, that "the verdict of the jury must not be construed to mean that Angela Davis received a fair trial." They referred to her 16 months of solitary confinement without bail, and said that in light of the lack of evidence presented by the state, "a fair trial would have been 'no trial at all.'"

Convicted by Press

The media, which had played up Prosecutor Albert Harris' circumstantial evidence from the start, has tried to create the impression that Angela Davis "got off." That she was convicted by the press before ever entering the courtroom is proved by scattered comments on the street after the decision of the jury.

Angela Davis was charged with conspiracy to provide guns for an escape attempt in Marin County Courthouse on August 7, 1970.

Evidence produced at the trial showed that the guns were legally owned by her, that they were kept in a closet accessible to other people, and that Jonathan Jackson had taken them without Angela Davis' knowledge. This information was available during her period of imprisonment without bail, but was not considered.

Granted Bail

After increasing world-wide protests, Angela Davis was granted bail after 16 months of solitary confinement. As protests continued to "Free Angela," the prosecution changed the nature of its case. Harris declared that Angela Davis was involved because of a passionate love for Soledad Brother George Jackson, and wanted him to be free.

There have been many responses of outrage to the obvious lack of evidence with which the State initiated its prosecution of Angela Davis. For example, Richard Hatcher, Mayor of Gary, Indiana, and co-chairman of the National Black Political Convention, after hearing the news of her verdict, stated: "True justice, perhaps, would dictate that Miss Davis be financially compensated for the time she spent languishing in prison and that reimbursement be made for the thousands of dollars spent in her legal defense."

ANGELA DAVIS

"Angela is Free!" - Supporters Elated

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The news sped quickly in the neighborhood where I was Sunday, June 4: "Angela is free!""The Angela Davis jury had unanimously declared her innocent of all charges.

Reaction from those who have supported Angela Davis was one of elation, support and a recognition of the need for continued work to change the prison system. The Communist Party, of which Angela Davis is a member, the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis and various groups and individuals issued statements and messages.

During her year and a half of imprisonment, hundreds of people in the New Haven area participated in efforts to win her right to bail and later to lift unfair bail restrictions. "It was tremendous public and world-wide pressure that assured the innocent Angela Davis of charges being dropped," said Gregory Stanton, Chairman of the New Haven Committee.

The Angela Davis committee organized various rallies and demonstrations during her 16 months of solitary confinement, and 13 weeks of trial. Other groups including the Human Relations Council, Urban League, Black Political Caucus, Trade Unionists for Action and Democracy, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Young Workers Liberation League made statements or took actions on behalf of the rights of Angela.

Rallies to be Celebrations

Events still in the planning stages when the trial ended will be held as celebrations, and rallies to continue the fight against politcal repression. Thursday, June 29 marks the first public appearance by Angela Davis at Madison Square Garden. Called "A Night of Stars" the event was planned to raise money for the huge trial expenses. Now Angela Davis will be the main "star." Also appearing will be such notables as Carmen McCrae and Ossie Davis. The New Haven Committee is selling tickets and providing transportation. For information call 865-5535.

A Youth Fest sponsored by the High School Committee to Free Angela Davis held a week after the end of the trial was turned into a public celebration of the acquittal. Various bands and drama groups performed on the New Haven Green Saturday afternoon, June 10.

Unionists Join Celebration

"A Night for Trade Unionists" to which Angela Davis had been invited as part of the effort to gain her right to speak and travel will now be both a social event and a discussion of her case, the wage freeze and the Indochina War.

Bill Taylor, Chairman of the New York Trade Union Committee for Angela Davis and formerly with District 65, will be guest speaker at the June 17 event. It will be held at 8 p.m. at the Teachers Center, 425 College St., and $1 donation is required.

The evening is sponsored by Connecticut Trade Unionists for Action and Democracy, which had just culminated a petition campaign calling for the end of unfair bail restrictions. Nearly 150 union members in Connecticut signed the petition. It was officially endorsed by the Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees Local 629 (SEIU).

The work of the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis is not over. They have announced that they will join with Angela Davis committees all over the country "to begin the national coordination of the struggle to free political prisoners like Ruchell Magee, the Harlem 4 and H. Rap Brown." They will also work with groups trying "to change the judicial-prison system in this country from one of injustice to one of justice."

One such group, Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions, sent Angela Davis a letter commending her for her "integrity and courage" and linked her acquittal to the local work of CBCI. "Our organization is supporting the struggles of lesser known victims of the same injustices you suffered after your arrest: excessive bail, and mental and physical abuse while unjustly incarcerated. Your acquittal only underlines the injustice of this treatment for which no recompense is offered by the state."

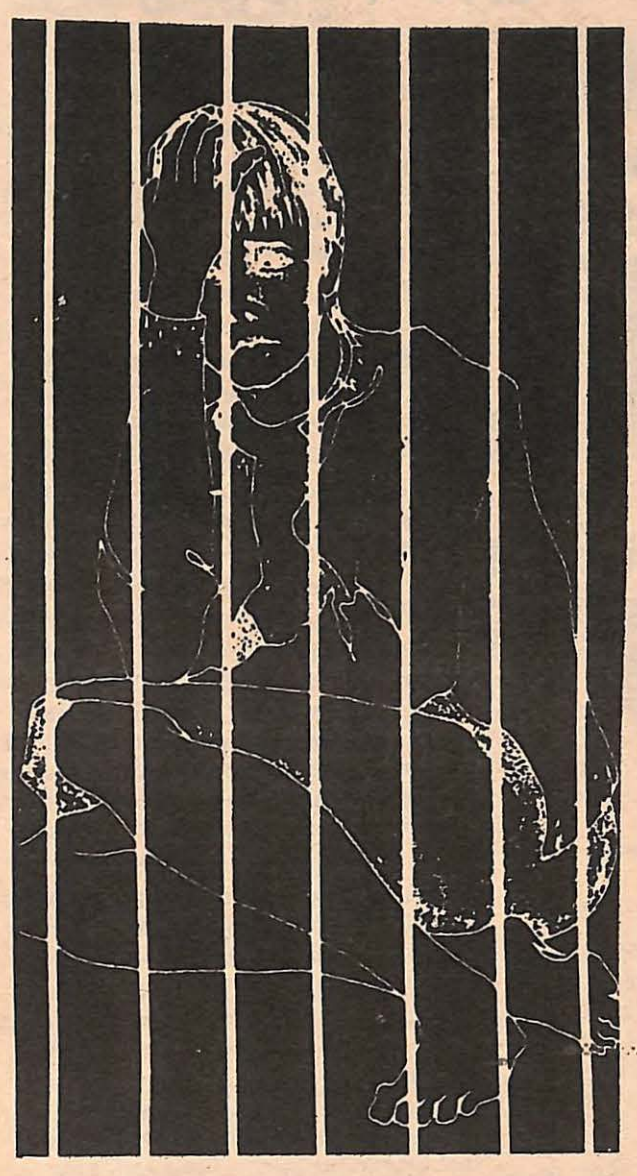
Peace Rally Of Women, Children Called In D.C.

The New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice is planning to support a women's and children's anti-war demonstration in Washington on Thursday, June 22. The call was issued in the form of a telegram signed by Coretta Scott King and Joan Baez. The text of the call is as follows:

Because the slaughter of human beings in Indo-China is at a new and sustained high and because we believe that the women of the world do not support this brutal war, we are calling upon American women and children to come to Washington on June 22 to show by our presence there that we no longer tolerate this war. We will have a non-violent encirclement of the U.S. Congress to demand a cutting off of the funds which perpetuate the war in Indo-China and which deny the fullfillment of human needs at home. The action will be followed by an entering of the Capital building by those who wish to meet and speak face to face with their legislators.

There will be buses leaving from New Haven on June 22 at 5A.M. For further information call 777-8754; Phyllis Biddle.

Whalley Ave. Jail A Health Horror



by John Batchelor

Members of Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions (CBCI) and the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR) are trying to improve the medical conditions at the Whalley Ave. jail.

Recently they met with Commissioner John Manson and other representatives of the Department of Corrections and made three specific proposals:

(1) That every physician in a jail or prison be given a handbook detailing his powers and rights and limitations.

(2) That an independent Medical Advisory Committee be created to draw up plans for the Department of Corrections to improve medical care.

(3) That the Yale Medical School become involved in improving medical care locally at the Whalley jail.

At present only very limited attention is available at Whalley. If anyone were brought in without teeth or eyeglasses after a scuffle, they would remain without them until they were released. Yet that might take a long time. For example, there are six men in Whalley jail who have been there for two years!

Standards Vary

It was revealed at the meeting that the jails and prisons are clean and sanitary, and have just been inspected by the State Department of Health. Of course, the standards are set by the Department of Corrections and vary from institution to institution. So, at Whalley jail where there are no *toilets,* the standards are set in terms of *buckets!* Under those circumstances you can hardly fail!

Being a prison doctor can be very difficult--especially if one tries to be conscientious. Dr. Fred Smith, who was at the meeting, resigned recently after working at Whalley Ave. for only a few months.

His appointment was part-time and he was unable to do the job satisfactorily under those conditions. Now the jail has rehired a doctor who was fired last year for "incompetence." They say they could not find anyone else for the job. Either they did not try very hard or the medical conditions within the jail must be very unattractive.

Uncertain Authority

Certainly a doctor does not play a very prestigious role in a prison. His medical judgements are always liable to be overturned because of security reasons. What authority he does have is negated by hiding it from him. During Dr. Smith's term, he never saw the rule book which told what he could and could not do; whether he could just go out and buy drugs which a patient needed and whether a patient could see his own physician.

This, of course, reflects the low priority in which the rights of inmates, such as medical care, are viewed by the prison authorities. They prefer to consider them as privileges rather than rights.

Just this past week the **Register-Courier** has been coming out with stories linking the C.I.A. with heroin smuggling operations in Southeast Asia. Yet this isn't new news at all. The story first appeared in **Ramparts** magazine and was carried in the August 1 issue of **Modern Times** .

Concern Rises Over Prison Situation

by Marion Brown

Editors' Note: Danbury Federal Prison was the scene of a work strike earlier this year (see March 15 **Modern Times***). Prison inmates, who are employed by Federal Prison Industries, Inc., receive wages of $.17 to $.46 an hour; they suspended work for eight days seeking higher wages and union recognition. This article describes life at Danbury.*

"Being in prison is the primary fact about being in prison - being always the victim, subject to other people's decisions about your life. Knowing why you are there is important, but knowing that peopleon the outside care about you is more important, and feeling you can make things happen is the most important." (statement by Dave Brown, former prisoner.)

Danbury has been called a "popsicle prison," a country club - perhaps because the guards there come to work dressed in multi-colored blazers, dress shirts and ties; or perhaps because its white fortress rests atop a hill surrounded by rolling green fields. But how many prisoners do you ever see out golfing in those fields? The fields provide "outside" work for a few inmates: you can be sure that someone else, not the inmates, decides the length of the trimmed grass in the fields as well as the length of the trimmed hair on each prisoner's head.

White Collar Guards Brandish Paper Clubs

A "popsicle prison" means basically that the controls are more insidious, less visible. Things like potential transfer, loss of good time, and a negative report from your case worker to the parole board are the inconspicious clubs that keep people in line. As a result of the work strike at Danbury in early March, six men have been transferred to other federal prisons, one man's parole has been postponed for a month (which month he spent in solitary confinement). several *prisoners have lost good time and one is still in solitary confinement.*

The major focus of prison actions and concerns needs to go beyond the physical conditions within the institution. For instance, the real issue is not the number of visiting hours and the scope of the visitors list, but the institutional control over who you are allowed to see and how often. The core issue is not the number of letters you are allowed, but the Man in the mailroom reading your personal thoughts.

The debilitating fact is that someone else orders every aspect of your daily living: the time you rise, whether or not you shave, the clothes you wear, where you sit at the table and whether you have seconds, what job you do and for what remuneration, how and when you move from job to meals to dwelling place. In official terms, such as you might hear on a prison tour, prisoners *are seated* at the tables in a certain order, seconds *are allowed* on certain items; each man *is assigned* to a job according to certain seldom explicit principles, and limited pay or extra good time *may be given* him if certain conditions *are met.*

Solitary containment Replaces the "Hole"

Danbury Prison boasts that it has no "hole." In the sense of a rat-infested, mattress-less cell, permeated with the smell of urine, where one lives in a constant half-light and eats only bread and water or cabbage and potatoes, the "hole" does not exist at Danbury. But the solitary confinement that totally cuts you off from communication with other prisoners, that leaves you continually wondering if you will be transferred and what will happen next, that keeps your head ringing with the sounds of silence or with the noise pollution of an always-on television that you can never see - that kind of solitary from which you do not have the comfort of a release date continues.

Entire units can be quickly turned into this new sort of solitary: a solitary that is more containment than confinement, a solitary that is shrouded in euphemisms such as Intensive Treatment Unit (I.T.U.) and administrative segregation, a solitary which often has no limit or release date. Getting in and out of this solitary containment is basically an administrative process in which the prisoner does not have the right to legal consel, to call witnesses in his behalf, to appeal the decision, or to receive a transcript of the proceedings.

Demonstrators at Danbury Federal Prison last October. Demonstrators were asking for an end to political imprisonment and and end to inhumane treatment of prisoners. The Prisoners' Support Group has continued these efforts by working with inmates at Danbury and their families to improve conditions at the prison. especially in the aftermath of the prisoner work stoppages at Danbury last March. (M-T photo by Alan Kay.)

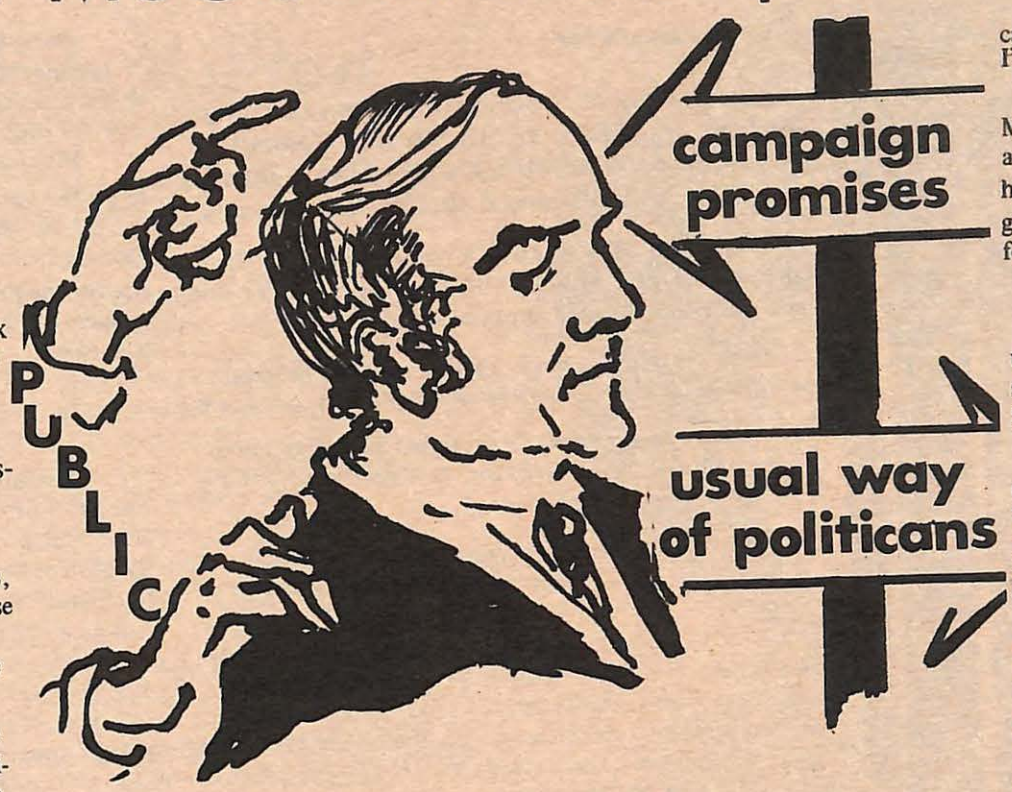
This is the solitary containment now being used on prisoners allegedly involved in inmate actions - at Attica, at Lewisburg, at Danbury. Solitary is no longer to separate out men who might endanger other prisoners; it is to contain men who might expose the prison.

Prisoners' Support Group

At Danbury the Prisoners' Support Group tries to make public what goes on behind the walls. To do this we maintain an information flow with prisoners and are then present at the prison gate several days each week to pass along information, talk with visitors, and let the authorities know they are no longer operating behind closed doors. We write articles and release newsworthy events to the papers and radio stations. When we hear of a man who needs help - legal or otherwise - we try to get assistance to him. The cooperation of families and friends of prisoners is an essential element in this work, and their trust is even more important. Most important, the very existence of the Prisoners' Support Group indicates peoples' growing concern for the control of each prisoner over his own life.

As prisoners, their families and friends, and their supporters come together, it becomes possible to carry the focus of prison actions beyond the physical conditions within the institution and on the institution itself.

Will McGovern Keep Tax Pledge?



HEY, GEORGE ...

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

"I propose a minimum income tax so that the rich could not avoid their share of the tax burden, no matter what loopholes they use."

"It is time for the American industry...to assume more of the tax burden generated by the war."

By taxing the rich and the corporations, Senator George McGovern proposed to raise about $23 billion. Why? Because, in his own words "it is time to relieve the middle and the low-income taxpayers."

The South Dakota Senator is now close to being the Democratic candidate for Preident. Already, millions of Americans have voted for him in primaries across the country.

To understand the McGovern campaign and to understand the political crisis of America, it is worth taking a good look at his striking plans for a shake-up in our tax system.

McGovern's ten-point tax plan would cut taxes for most Americans. It is a very courageous position for any politician to take, promising a new role for the government in the US: serving people instead of profits. McGovern dares to stand for some radical, long-overdue changes in our society. His words are also designed to win votes. Can his tax plan work?

Where McGovern's Tax Plan Leads

Suppose McGovern becomes President. And suppose he does shake up our tax system the way he promises. What then? Businesses whose taxes were raised will find that the profits remaining in their hands have gone down. When their profits shrink, businessmen in the "free enterprise system" have the right to decide not to invest their money. They even have the right to shut down their plants and offices because they don't get enough profits to make it worth their while to keep operating.

Now, if some businessmen don't invest while others close down altogether, the result is clear. Workers will be laid off, orders for new machines and buildings and supplies will be cut back, and that means yet more workers will be dropped. A recession that might well deteriorate into a depression.

McGovern might then decide that we can't allow businessmen to cut back investments or operations, because McGovern certainly doesn't want a depression. But the only way to force businessmen to keep up investing and operating is to make that decision for them.

Government Takeover of Business

If McGovern is going to make the decisions about what businessmen can and will do with their money, it simply means that government has taken over business.

McGovern did not get to be a Senator talking like this. He knows that he can never get the financial and political support of of American big business if he runs his Presidential campaign on a program which essentially calls for the state takeover of private business.

So why is McGovern talking tough about taxing the rich? Because he has built his campaign around an image of himself as representing the economically "little people" of America. In the last few years, rising taxes have bitten deeply into the incomes of all but the richest. So McGovern wins votes as a champion of the tax-sufferer.

McGovern will likely start doing much less talking about any tax shakeup. He won't go back on his plan, he just won't mention it. He'll likely try to avoid, above all, getting into any thorough discussion of it, because that might lead into the tought spot mentioned above.

A good taste of McGovern's likely response to tough questions about his tax plans was the way he answered Hubert Humphrey's clever questions during their TV debates before the California primary. He did not answer Humphrey. Instead he looked and acted very concerned, very sincere, very calm. He had that "It may be hard, but I'm working on it" look on his face.

Without ever saying it in so many words McGovern was asking us to trust him. We are asked to have faith that he won't scrap his tax plan when he meets privately with governors, bankers, and executives, asking for their help.

What We Should Do

The big businessmen are not going to trust McGovern. They are putting the squeeze on him to "adjust" his programs. So we can't rely on trust and faith, either.

We, the people, must raise the pressure on McGovern to stay true to his tax program. We have to let him know that the program has a lot to do with our decision on how we are going to vote.

We need that tax program. Unlike McGovern, we don't need to keep businessmen happy. If they refuse to pay the needed taxes, then the government can and should step in. So it boils down to this: if McGovern is to stick to his tax program and if that program is to work, we must put the pressure on.

We can raise the pressure for the tax program in many ways. We can talk to other voters about the tax plan. We can write to newspapers, to McGovern, to other candidates about our support for that kind of tax plan. Some may choose to work in the campaign organization of McGovern or of other candidates. Then, from inside, we can talk up the need for united effort for that kind of tax plan. From inside our labor unions, community groups, schools, clubs, we can help build a strong voice for that tax plan.

The power of the pressure of the people is all we can really trust in to win the new tax program which McGovern promises.

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MODERN TIMES

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want every one to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Joseph Fusco Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Ed Breuler Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff.

Write On

Glass Shield

To the Editors:

In this community there are several activity avenues -- art, music, theater or dramatic groups, and sports -- for a citizen with energy to burn to participate in. It seems however, when he is a minority citizen, who wishes an outlet from his profession or daily routine, he finds himself imprisoned in a glass vacuum.

He can see all the avenues he wishes, but the minute he ventures toward this avenue he cannot get through, a glass shield springs up. Sometimes he might find a crack in the shield that he can squeeze through, but on the very verge of reaching his avenue, he finds another shield springs up.

I wonder why? I wonder if my fellow citizens can imagine the amount of energy and courage it takes for a minority citizen to break through these shields. Must our hearts and spirits be constantly broken before we can get through? Will you keep them from springing up? We pay our taxes and experience the same boredom and frustrations of life that other citizens feel in this community.

Not all of us have a circle of inertia around us. In THIS COMMUNITY there is a large group of bubbling, energetic, and spirited people, minority citizens, who would like to contribute our vitality to the betterment and enrichment of this community. However, when you crush one of us, you are really crushing thousands, who are afraid to venture out of the glass vacuum. Please consider the daring ones you meet in this community, who wish to offer their talents to worthwhile pursuits. Do not put a shield before us.

If we are daring enough to break through our glass shield, consider us as being recherche. Deal with us as we are, not in a nonchalant manner.

If we reach your avenue, we want your embracement, but not necessarily any special favors, just a chance to participate in something that we have a shared interest in. Do not follow the recent experience of one of us with a community theater director, who was allowed to break through the shield for a few weeks, then the director flung up another shield in his face.

As you go down your favorite activity avenue, notice our frail numbers, if any, and think about what I have said. There is a melting pot of talented individuals around you. Use our talents when we reach your avenue. Make your hearts big enough for the melting pots. There are many avenues that could be given more light by us. Do not hide our light. We can brighten and enlighten our community. Do we have to fight through every walk of our daily lives?

Sincerely,
MR

Roads Closed?

To The Editor:

Every day as I drive to and from work on I-95 or I-91, I pass signs saying "Road legally closed. Pass at your own risk." From what I understand this means that if I am involved in an accident because of poor road conditions, I would be unable to sue the state. Now I can understand these signs on a minor road for a limited period of time. But these signs are on our biggest highways, permanently! Isn't there some avoidance of civic responsibility here?

Stan Heller
East Haven

World Affairs

Strikes Mobilize Quebec

by Marv Gandall
reprinted from the Guardian

"A junior executive arrived at the big General Motors plant in Saint Therese yesterday and was stopped by picketing workers.

"No one goes in. There's no work today,' he was told."

"'By what authority?,' he asked through the car window.

"'By the authority of the workers of Quebec, he was told. 'Move on.'"

"We are witnessing a new surge of a third political force in Quebec, one outside the normal political structure of government and opposition; one in fact dedicated to their destruction."

–Toronto Globe editorial

Last month Quebec workers staged the largest political strike in recent North American history. 150,000 workers staged massive walkouts and demonstrations for nine days protesting the jailing of their top labor leaders.

Background: the Common Front

After a series of obstructive actions by the Liberal government of Quebec, three key unions-the Quebec Federation of Labor, the Confederation of National Trade Unions, and the Quebec Teachers Corporation-joined in a "Common Front" and called for a strike of government workers in support of a $100 weekly minimum salary, the reduction of pay differentials between men and women and improved working conditions and job security.

Union Leaders Jailed

As a result the leaders of the three unions were sentenced May 9 to a harsh, one-year jail term for contempt of court. The charges stem from the counseling of the public service workers to ignore court injunctions ordering the maintenance of essential services. On the grounds that, "There is no justice in Quebec!," the three preferred to enter jail rather than appeal their sentences and become eligible for bail.

Barely had the cell doors of Orsainville prison outside Quebec City clanged shut behind the three, than the workers exploded in protest.

In spectacular and unprecedented mass actions on May 10, they emptied construction sites, mines, factories, schools and hospitals across the province and poured into the streets of hundreds of Quebec communities to march and demonstrate for the release of the jailed unionists and for repeal of Bill 19, the government's back-to-work law.

Workers' Actions

In Sept-Iles, a mining community on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, workers seized control of the entire town after a bloody pitched battle with provincial police that left 35 injured, one man dead and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property damage. "The unions in effect control the city," a local Steelworkers union official remarked. "We can close or open all the bars, stores, businesses and schools that we want."

In Montreal, construction workers, longshoremen, outdoor workers, bus drivers, journalists, printers and other workers walked off the job, a hospital was occupied by its staff for two days, two bombs exploded in the subway system and nails were strewn across bridges and expressways blocking traffic for hours.

In Rimouski, strikers firebombed the home of a provincial cabinet minister and blocked access roads into the city.

In Quebec City, thousands of workers gathered outside the walls of the Orsainville prison in a solidarity demonstration with their jailed leaders, and then marched off to temporarily tie up air traffic at the city's Ancien Lorette airport.

In Sherbrooke, workers took over the downtown district, demonstrating in front of the local courthouse and demanding to be jailed like their leaders.

In Bai Comeau, workers firebombed a a local private hydro-electric plant. And in St. Jerome, Sorel, Rouyn-Noranda, Amos, Sept-Iles, Thetford Mines, New Carlyle, Mantane and Hautrive, trade unionists seized local radio stations and broadcast bulletins about the mushrooming protests, interspersing these with nationalist and revolutionary music. The unionists had to be evicted forcibly by police.

Political Objectives

Newspapers and politicians encouraged a climate of near-hysteria in their alarmist portrait of a society at the mercy of a handful of "revolutionary" labor leaders intimidating and inciting vast legions of ignorant workers to destroy the system.

In fact the reality was somewhat different. The immediate aims of the trade union leaders--particularly the three federation presidents who preferred to stay in jail rather than appeal to get bail--were far from revolutionary. They appeared to have three main objectives:

(1) They wanted to mobilize the base into pressuring the government to release all jailed unionists (there were, in addition to the three top officials, 52 other labor leaders serving sentences of up to six months), and enter into serious negotiations with the public service workers.

(2) They wanted to further radicalize the base to discredit their right-wing opponents in the union leadership who objected to the new, more militant course they were charting for the trade union movement.

(3) They wanted to avoid being outflanked on their left by more radical elements as the crisis in Quebec society deepened. As David Lewis, head of Canada's labor-based New Democratic party put it to a Steelworkers convention in expressing his support of the jailed leaders: "They are acting not against the interests of Quebec but for the interests of Quebec in that they show militancy in order to avoid being replaced by others a good deal more irresponsible."

Lessons of the Strike

What the crisis has revealed to the most thoughtful workers is:

----That their power lies in mass action. The strikes and demonstrations froced the government to agree to two major demands: the release of the trade union leaders and the repudiation of its intention to impose a public service settlement June 1, if none had been reached by that date.

----That the state, the courts and the mass media are completely under the control of business: an awareness that is moving hundreds and perhaps thousands of workers from militant trade union consciousness to revolutionary political consciousness.

----That the Parti Quebecois, which had been widely regarded as the "workingman's best friend" in Quebec was not on

See STRIKES page 8

Introduction to Socialism

ProductionForProfitsNot People

What is socialism? What do socialists really believe? What's it got to do with America, with New Haven, with the here and now? In answer to questions like these from our readers, **Modern Times** *decided to publish a series of articles from Leo Huberman's famoust pamphlet,* **The ABC of Socialsim.** *The following is the tenth in the series.*

The capitalist system is irrational.

It is based on the premise that the self-interest of the business man is sure to benefit the nation; that if only individuals are left free to make as much profit as they can, the whole of society must be better off; that the best way to get things done is to let capitalists make as large a profit as possible out of doing them and, as certain by-product of the process, the needs of the people will be served.

This proposition is definitely not true - certainly not all the time. The interest of the profit-seeker may or may not coincide with the interests of society. As a matter of fact, they frequently clash.

The capitalist system is irrational because instead of basing production of the needs of all, it bases production on the profits of the few.

The capitalist system is irrational because instead of using the common-sense method of tying production directly to needs, it uses an indirect method of tying production to profits in the vague hope that needs will somehow be met.

It is illogical and absurd as going from New York to Chicago roundabout by way of New Orleans, instead of by the direct route.

Only Anarchy

Nowhere is the irrationality of the capitalist system more evident than in its lack of plan. Within each business there is a system, organization, planning; but in the relationship of one business to another there is no system, no organization no planning - only anarchy.

The economic welfare of the nation can best be achieved, industrialists assure us, not by careful comprehensive planning to that end, but by allowing individual capitalists to decide what is best for themselves and hoping that the sum of all those individual decisions will add up to the good of the community.

It just doesn't make sense.

The capitalist system is irrational, also, in its division of the people into warring classes. Instead of "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," capitalism, by its very nature, creates two nations, divisible, with liberty and justice for one class and not for the other. Instead of a unified community, with people living together in brotherhood and friendship, the capitalist system makes for a disunited community with the class that works and the class that owns necessarily fighting each other for a larger share of the national income.

The income of the owning class, profits, is looked upon as a good thing since the purpose of industry is profit-making; the income of the working class, wages, is looked upon as a bad thing since it cuts into profits. Regardless of the lip service paid to the merit of the "theory of high wages," that is the nub of the matter. Profits are regarded as a positive good to be made as large as possible; wages are regarded as a positive evil to be kept down to a minimum so costs of production will be low.

The resultant inability of the workers to buy back the goods they produce leads to crisis and depression - the periodic breakdown of the system. Could any economic system be more illogical?

Profits, Profits

Another irrationality that grows out of this emphasis on profit-making as the primary motive for the development of

See PROFITS page 8

Residents Unite Against UI Power Lines

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The United Illuminating Co. is facing stiff opposition in insisting on overhead power lines from its Grand Avenue sub-station to the Coke Works Site on Morris Cove. First of all, the Fair Haven and Annex communities that border on the proposed lines are united against the lines. Secondly, the New Haven city government from the mayor down have fought the lines. Finally, the overhead lines are contrary to the State Public Act 575 which calls for the eventual undergrounding of all power lines to protect environmental, historical and recreational values.

In order to win its case the UI must show that the consumer has no right to determine how the product it buys from UI is delivered--a proposition which is contrary to the spirit of the public utility laws under which it was licensed. Even though the consumers involved agree that undergrounding the lines is economically justified, UI still refuses to budge.

Why then is UI so uptight about undergrounding one mile of powerline?

UI Expanding

Of course the financial saving on the present line is an important factor. But just as important is how the present decision could affect UI's future expansion.

The amount of power being generated is approximately doubling every 10 years. While that value scares environmentalists, UI is committed to increasing its power output at the present rate, rather than for thriftier use of power and less expansion.

At the Coke Site UI has enough room for *generating about six times the amount of electricity as is generated at its present plant on Grand Avenue. This implies that UI will need many more transmission lines. If UI had a precedent for putting up one mile of overhead lines in the area, it would be easier to create a climate for acceptance of more overhead power lines.*

The New Gateway to Fair Haven. An artist's conception of how the UI power lines would look if constructed as proposed.

Thus it is likely that the overhead power line issue could come up in a bigger way in the future.

Public Concern

At the same time that UI is planning to expand so rapidly the public awareness and concern for the environment has grown. This poses the greatest threat to the UI's expansion plans.

To meet this threat UI and other utilities have been trying to minimize environmental restrictions for generating and transmission facilities. For example, in a recent advertisement in the *Journal-Courier* they implied that nuclear power plants should be provisionally licensed even before federal and state environmental impact statements are completed.

The strongest argument UI has for arguing for lower environmental standards is the threat of power shortages and brownouts (temporary reductions of voltage during peak demand periods). However, many consumers are wondering if a rapidly deteriorating urban environment is a price worth paying for unrestricted growth in electricity consumption.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

DEVELOPMENT UPSTREAM CLOSES WHARTON BROOK

On May 26 the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that the swimming area of Wharton Brook State Park in Wallingford was closed until further notice. The area was closed due to muddiness resulting from careless development upstream by Alan Senia of Westport who is associated with the Pilgrim Harbor Association.

The DEP issued an order to eliminate the muddiness and to prevent further muddiness. Compliance with the order, however, may be difficult because of the great amount of damage already done to the land.

ANOTHER SWIMMING SEASON IN NEW HAVEN HARBOR

It looks like it will be another dirty swimming season in New Haven Harbor. A little medical advice: Do not swim with open cuts and take a shower after swimming do not swallow water. These steps will minimize fecal bacterial contamination of your body.

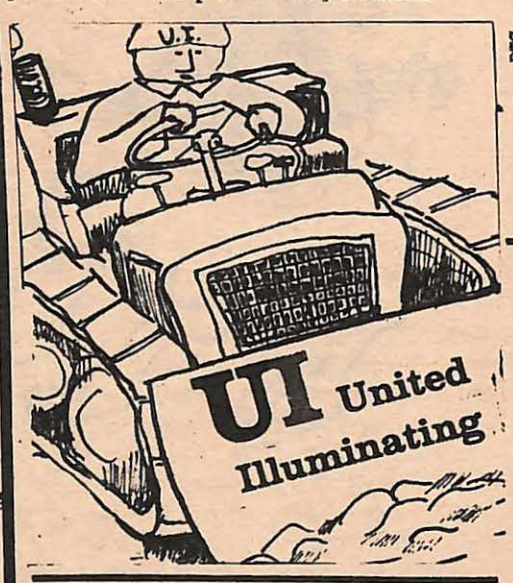
Sure it will cost a lot of money to clean up the harbor. Like what is spent on the Vietnam War for 3 days ($300 million).

ACID RAIN

The rain falling on New England is actually a dilute solution of sulfurous and sulfuric acid. It is approximately 100 times more acid than rain falling on the West Coast which receives non-polluted air and rain from the Pacific Ocean. The extra acidity comes from nitrogen and sulfur oxides mainly from automobiles and power plants.

This extra acidity causes property to deteriorate faster. (For example, your car or house paint, aluminum siding, etc.). It also may have an adverse effect on vegetation. Acid rain may weaken vegetation and make it more susceptible to insects and disease. There is a possibility that the recent unparalleled outbreaks of gypsy moths and spanworms may have been promoted by acid rain.

In Scandanavia acid rain has caused the streams to become more acid. In some areas streams have become too acid for salmon to spawn successfully.



STRIKES

Continued from page 7

the side of the militant workers. Its leader, Rene Levesque, called on the jailed labor leaders to "defuse the crisis" by applying for bail and appealing their contempt sentences, the same line carried through the crisis by the Liberal party, the party in power. Talk of an independent mass worker's party consequently became more pronounced in some sectors of the labor movement as the dispute progressed.

----That the right-wing trade-union bureaucracy in Canada cannot be relied upon for any kind of concrete support. Although the Canadian Labor Congress condemned the jailings, it pointedly refused to support the general strike actions called by its Quebec affiliate.

PROFITS

Continued from page 7

industry, is the confusion it creates in the values people live by.

What is the guide to conduct in a capitalist society? That depends.

In the business world, competition, non-Christian self-interest, sharp dealing, cut the other fellow's throat, push your rival to the wall, anything goes that you can get away with; never mind what you will do with it, spend all your time and energy in the feverish pursuit of wealth - the bigger your pile, the more successful you are, regardless of how you acquired it.

In the world of family and friends, in the world of religion, other standards prevail. Instead of competition, cooperation; instead of hate, love; instead of grab yourself, service to others; instead of climb to the top on the other person's back, help your fellow-man; instead of "how much is there in it for me?", will it benefit others?; instead of the lust for riches, the desire to serve.

Two sets of values - as different as night and day.

EAST SIDE ROUND UP

Over The Hill and Over The Mill...

by Frank R. Annunziato

For the last year now, a battle royal has been raging in Eastern New Haven. It all started when the Conn. Light and Power Co. and the United Illuminating Co. announced they were going to encircle our neighborhood with huge towers carrying high tension wires. These two "Public Utilities" further stated that these monsters would go along the Mill and Quinnipiac Rivers. Needless to say, this provoked a great deal of hostility from our community.

Now, the Mill River isn't exactly one of your favorite tropical resort areas, but people felt enough was enough. Led mostly by Mrs. Catherine Quinn of the Fair Haven Betterment Association and the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation, first a neighborhood-wide and then a city-wide alliance was formed to fight these towers. This alliance included such different types as the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, the Fair Haven Project Area Committee, People Against Pollution, several student environmental groups, and ordinary citizens.

Electric Companies Connive

After weeks of negotiating and politicking, this alliance managed to get the Board of Aldermen to pass a resolution stating that the Board of Aldermen had the power to decide if high tension towers would be built in the city. Never willing to be stopped by a mere municipal government, the two "Public Utilities" then got their cronies on the state-appointed Public Utilities Commission, to go along with their sillyness. The City of New Haven along with various groups and private citizens then started a court case to see who really has jurisdiction. A decision by the court will come down in a few days.

I learned many things during this whole business. The most important lesson for me was the absolute "don't care" attitude these companies have for anybody who tries to put up a stink about what they're doing. The second thing was just how ineffective and unresponsive are most of our neighborhood's aldermen. The best way to describe them is to use an expression people say about cops, "They're never around when you want them and they're always around when you don't need them (that is, when there are votes to be had)."

On the issue of the towers, all of our aldermen publicly opposed the towers. I was taught in school, however, that elected officials were supposed to lead their people and fight for their needs. Why is it that, in this situation, the fight had to be started by an ordinary citizen and it wasn't until much later that the aldermen jumped on the boat?

No Help for Project Enough

And, sometimes they miss the boat altogether! Any dummy knows that there are more drugs in Fair Haven than people. A group of young people formed an organization, Project Enough, Inc., to start tackling the problem.

They petitioned the Board of Aldermen to lease from the city an old abandoned school that hasn't been used for years. Who opposed them? The Fair Haven Aldermen. Only one of them had the courage to buck the system and publicly support Project Enough. That man was Alan DeLisle (D-12).

It's not as if there aren't any problems in the neighborhood. There's only little inconveniences; unemployment, pollution, drugs, increasing property taxes, racial tensions. Those are problems that leaders should deal with.

Recently, I asked myself some questions that I bet most people can't answer: 1. Can you remember the last time an alderman either publicly supported a strike or walked a picket line? 2. When was the last time you remember seeing an alderman at a community meeting (weddings, wakes, confirmations and Sunday mass don't count!)? 3. When was the last time any of the Fair Haven aldermen held an open meeting in their wards to talk about people's problems?

I have to give credit where credit is due though. Many people, including myself, were happy to see that so many aldermen were opposed to the war in Viet Nam, following Mayor Guida's and Art Barbieri's example. Even there, though, Ray O'Neil (D-11) issued a public statement in support of the War and President Nixon(I thought he was a Republican!).

Machine Flabby

But the winds of change are blowing across Fair Haven and points East. The old Democratic machine is getting old and flabby. Several months ago, Richard Nuzzo, a local school teacher, challenged the ward chairman of the 11th ward, Thomas King, in a primary. King and Alderman O'Neil threw the works at Nuzzo. They called him an "outsider", (Nuzzo has lived in the ward for 26 of his 26 years), and other accusations that any responsible person wouldn't call a dead dog. The results? King 149 votes to Nuzzo's 139. Yes, the winds of change are blowing.

ON FILM

Documentary Recounts Life & Times of Malcolm X

by Harry Henderson
Modern Times Staff

The Autobiograpy of Malcolm X; adapted from the book of that title by Malcolm X with the assistance of Alex Haley; compiled and produced by Arnold Perl; narration by Ossie Davis; technical assistance by Betty Shabazz.

Malcolm X was perhaps the most extraordinary revolutionary figure to appear in recent years in this country. He came to understand his revolutionary mission late in his tragically short life, and when he was at the peak of his powers, organizing his people and articulating a blistering indictment of American racism and imperialism, he was assassinated.

Perhaps it is inevitable that it is his death rather than his life which stands out first. After all, his influence while alive has multiplied many times in the short but tumultuous period since his death. His autobiography, on which this film is based, has sold more than 4 million copies, and is being read by students--black and white--in high schools and colleges all over the nation.

Malcolm X is best known as a martyr, as a man who was so fearless that he became a walking target. He was so hated that when he was at last cut down, the ruling circles in this country could hardly conceal their gloating. The New York *Herald Tribune* showed his bullet ridden body being carried from the Audubon Ballroom. Over the picture the editors could think of no more fitting headline than this: CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST.

Costs of Change

The costs of trying to change this society are great. The documentary film which Arnold Perl has compiled features not only shots of Malcolm X, but of the many leaders of the liberation struggle he influenced.

It's hard to watch these images of men and women who stood up to take the heat without reflecting on what has happened to them since the shots were made: Rap Brown in jail, Cleaver and Carmichael in their separate exiles, Huey Newton and Angela Davis barely escaped from efforts to lock them away for life, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X dead.

There is more death in the film--but this time no celebrities. People being killed in the streets of Newark and Detroit. People being killed in the jungles and villages of Vietnam.

Malcolm X (Photo by Laurence Henry)

But the film has more than this. The movement for social change in this country will need more courage than ever in the next few years, but we don't need another film about martyrs.

Another Death

The opening sequence of the film--the only one which is adventurous at all in its technique--reminds the viewer that there is another form of death. This sequence shows the faces of the people Malcolm tried to reach--faces marked with the despair of no hope. This is the daily death toll in the minds and bodies of people for whom the American system is a dead end.

If there is anything the film makes clear, it is the immense love Malcolm X had for these people and the way that love was returned.

The faces on the streets of Harlem which are caught by the camera are trapped by the logic of s society which says that since one class is to rule the others, somebody has to take the place on the bottom. The same logic which declares that if you are black in a white-dominated society, that place on the bottom is reserved for you.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X is the story of a man coming to a full awareness of what that logic means.

Malcolm's Growth

The main drama of the film is simply Malcolm speaking, first as the reborn advocate of the Black Muslims, then after his break with Elijah Muhammed, as founder of his own organization. Speeches are usually more oratory than drama, but the drama is there because Malcolm X never stopped growing.

In these scenes one can watch Malcolm searching with immense intelligence and moral courage for the meaning behind the oppression of his people which he hated so. One can watch him painfully free himself from the racist devil theory of Elijah Muhammed to an internationalist analysis of imperialism and racism.

Finally, that's what makes this film well worth seeing. It's not because it shows images of a martyred leader. In a country as violent as this one, martyrdom is all too easy to attain. Malcolm's life is proof of something more valuable, namely that a person committed to the fight against oppression is also committed to life and growth. Few people in our time grew more in that fight than Malcolm X.

brass tacks

Unions And Black Workers

by Phil Singerman

How does the labor movement rate when it comes to black workers? Are unions more or less responsive to the needs of black workers than big corporations, universities or other institutions? Let's examine some of the common myths about racism in unions.

Myth Number 1: Labor unions exclude black workers.

This is probably the most widespread myth. When you read the newspapers, all you hear about are unions refusing to allow black workers to join. The truth is somewhat different.

Brendon Sexton, former Education Director of the Autoworkers, estimated in 1971 that black workers made up over 16% of total union membership. Over half the members of the Laborers Union and the Longshoremen are black. Unions with more than 20% black membership include the Steelworkers, the Autoworkers, the Meatcutters, the Garment Workers, and the Building Service Employees, to name just a few.

Black workers are represented in leadership positions also. A study published in 1968 by the Chicago Urban League revealed that labor unions had a higher percentage of blacks in policy-making positions than other private institutions--corporations, universities, professional and business association.

Myth Number 2: Black workers do not make good union members.

A little history reveals another story. Immediately after the Civil War, black craftsmen in Baltimore and other cities organized themselves, and attempted to join the National Labor Union. In the 1880's, hundreds of thousands of black workers flocked to the broad-based and militant Knights of Labor. In the 1890's and the early 1900's, black workers helped to build the powerful United Mine Workers. One example is Richard L. Davis, a black coal miner from Ohio, who traveled all over the southern coal fields, organizing black and white miners.

In the 1930's the CIO was built by both black and white workers. Even in Birmingham, Alabama, where blacks were still denied the vote, black and white workers formed integrated unions in the 1930's. The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, headed by a black man, A. Philip Randolph, organized a strong union against the powerful Pullman Company.

Today, in many urban areas, black workers, men and women have taken the lead in union activity. It should be remembered that Martin Luther King was killed while supporting a strike of sanitation workers in Memphis. In northern auto plants and steel mills, in Chicago, Gary, Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, unions with large black membership are frequently the most militant in defense of workers' demands.

Myth Number 3: White union members benefit from discrimination against black workers.

If anything, the record shows the opposite. One of the oldest tricks of American businessmen, a practice which dates from before the Civil War, has been to use ethnic differences among workers to weaken the labor movement. Employers replaced striking white workers in Virginia iron mills with slaves as early as 1855. Almost every labor disturbance in steel mills during the 1870's and 1880's saw the use of black strikebreakers by factory owners; they used Irish, Italians, Jews and other immigrant groups as strikebreakers as well. Whenever people were poor and willing to work for low wages under harsh conditions, they were potential strikebreakers. The net effect weakened the American labor movement. The massive use of strikebreakers during World War I organizing drives in the basic industries helped defeat these drives and dealt the labor movement a blow from which it did not recover for 20 years.

Employers are still using regional and ethnic differences to keep wages down--"runaway plants" are a good example. The decline in the textile industry in New England is well-known. Employers take advantage of low wage rates in the South, and when they can't defeat the labor movement in the North, they simply close their plants and move away. Employers constantly use the threat of relocating in another state or country to keep unions on the defensive.

Myth Number 4: If it weren't for unions, employers would hire more black workers.

Employers frequently use this argument to hide their own prejudice. But a careful study of 28 Los Angeles labor unions concluded that "the relative exclusion of Mexicans and Negroes from unions at certain job levels is more clearly the result of *hiring practices in industry than of the ethnic policy of the unions.*"

Another flaw in this argument is that overall the greatest amount of exclusion and discrimination has existed in those industries and areas where unions have been weakest, especially in the South. Southern textile mills have historically been anti-union, and are infamous for discriminating against black workers.

These are some of the most common myths that people have about black workers and labor unions. Such invented stories exist because they serve the purpose of anti-union employers: as long as workers see other workers as their enemies instead of as their friends, the working class will continue to be divided and weak. It is in the interest of all working people, black and white, to destroy these myths and eliminate the race prejudice that underlies them.

Review

Taken in part from the May, 1972, issue of Labor Today magazine.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MOTHER JONES, with a Foreward by Clarence Darrow. Published by Charles H. Kerr Co. (431 S. Dearborn, Suite 829, Chicago, Illinois, 60605) for the Illinois Labor History Society. Chacago, 1972, paperback, $ 2.95.

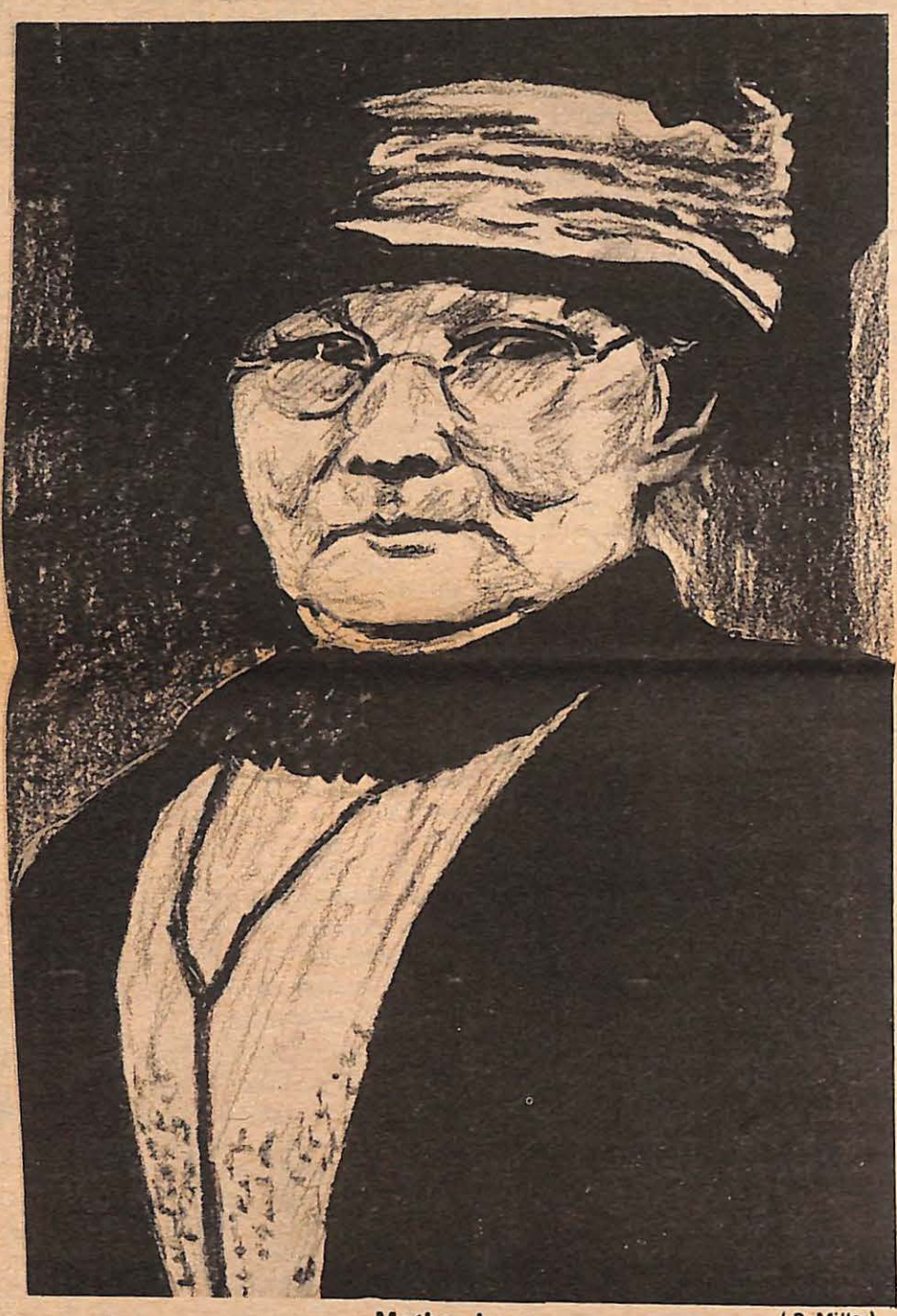
Mother Jones' Own Story

Here is a book that tells a truly fantastic, amazing and exciting story about a great American heroine. **The Autobiography of Mother Jones** is about a woman whose passion was to build the American labor movement.

A few tidbits of her life will make you see why you ought to read this book. We can start with what one unionist remembers about her:

"I saw her one time in Monongahela. She was trying to organize the mines. She came down Pike Street in a buggy and horse. Two company thugs grabbed the horse by the bridle and told her to turn around and get back down the road. She wore a gingham apron and she reached under it and pulled out a 38 special pistol and told them to turn her horse loose, and they sure did. She continued on to the park and spoke to a large crowd of miners. She wasn't afraid of the devil."

In the history of the American labor movement, the coal miners were in the forefront of many of the most crucial and often bloodiest struggles. Their heroes are many. Not the least of these was someone who was not a miner at all, but grey-haired, grey-eyed bespectacled, Irish-born Mary Jones, known to the miners and to the trade union movement as Mother Jones.



Mother Jones (P. Miller)

Inspiring Discouraged Miners

Following the death of her husband and four children in the 1867 Memphis yellow fever epidemic, she became immersed in the union cause. Member of the Knights of Labor, she appeared frequently at the scene of strikes, where she was often able, after others had failed, to inspire discouraged miners to greater effort.

During a strike in Kentucky, she got the women in a thoroughly organized town to help bring out the men in another town. 2,000 women, in their house dresses, with brooms and mops and pots and pans, marched 15 miles over the mountains to the neighboring town, staring down the militia on the way. When the miners started to go to work, they were met by the women beating on their pans, crying "Join the Union! Join the Union!" They all joined.

Mother Jones brought the plight of both miners and mill workers to the public. Thousands of textile workers in Kensington, Pa. were children, many of them crippled and maimed on the job. In 1903 she brought a group of them to New York to show President Roosevelt their hands with missing fingers, their skinny arms with missing hands.

To Mother Jones, her work was educational, and unions were just the beginning. "Taking men into the union is just the kindergarten of their education," she said, "and every force is against their further education."

She knew the power of the industrialists who ran the state of Colorado. After the Ludlow Massacre, she said, "The Miners lost because they had only the constitution. The other side had bayonets."

She Knew the Score

On politics she said, "I asked a man in prison once how he happened to be there and he said he had stolen a pair of shoes. I told him if he had stolen a railroad he would be a U.S. Senator."

She urged industrial unionism and militant organizing. "Don't be ladylike," she said, "God Almighty made women and the Rockefeller gang of thieves made the ladies."

Loyal to the union cause, she had little patience with less dedicated labor leaders. "Many of our modern leaders of labor have wandered far from the thorny path of the early crusaders... In those days labor's representatives did not sit on velvet chairs in conference with labor's oppressors... They did not ride in Pullmans or make trips to Europe. The rank and file have let their servants become their masters and dictators. The workers have now to fight not alone against their exploiters, but likewise their own leaders, who often betray them, sell them out, who put their own advancement ahead of that of the working masses."

Century of Struggles

When she died at the age of 100 in 1930, Father Maguire told the thousands who came to do her honor:

"Wealthy coal operators and capitalists throughout the United States are breathing sighs of relief, while the toil-worn men and women are weeping tears of bitter grief. Mother Jones is dead."

A Plan For All Seasons at Nature Center

These deer are some of the animals on view at the West Rock Nature Recreation Center. (M-T photo by Vittorio Comisso.)

by Louis Arminio

The West Rock Nature Recreation Center is located in the middle of a densely populated residential area in Hamden. It serves as an oasis of nature where people can enjoy life in the out of doors.

Among its featured exhibits and activities are a mammal zoo where people can see what kinds of animals live in Connecticut, and a nature house with birds nests, crafts, and a rock and tree exhibit. Nature books, rock collections, porcupine quills and craft items are for sale there.

Seasonal Activities

During the summer the Center offers opportunities for hiking, picnicing and wild flower identification. For winter activities they have a toboggan chute, a sled slope, an ice skating pond, and a ski slope with a rope tow. These facilities are open to the public at practically no cost. All that one has to pay is a slight fee which is necessary for operating the Center and maintaining its expenses.

A bird zoo and archery range will soon be added to the Center's present facilities. The location of the bird zoo has been landscaped and surveyed, and a prototype bird cage is under construction. It is hoped that other cages will be built this year. The archery range is still in the planning stages.

Programs for Youth

The Nature Recreation Center also has programs which involve young people. They are the Park Oaks Club and the Apprentice Ranger School.

The Park Oaks Club is for kids 10 to 14 who are interested in working and learning in the out of doors. They enter the group as recruits, and after working for 100 hours in specific areas they become members. In this capacity they learn animal care, camping skills, carpentry, woods and trails care, crafts, and poster work.

The Park Oaks Club was formed in 1947 by Anthony V. Cosenza, Chief Ranger at the Center. It is now supervised by Herbert Perkins, who is also in charge of the Apprentice Ranger School, and Mrs. Karen Baker. In the club's 25 years of existence kids have put 250,000 volunteer hours into the Center. That comes out to 10,000 hours a year; a lot of time for kids to put in after school and during summer vacations.

The Apprentice Ranger School is for young people in their middle and late teens who are interested in becoming park rangers or going into environmental or nature work. In this program they learn the essentials involved in running a nature center. They utilize their own first hand experiences, and those of other centers. They've visited the Litchfield Nature Center which boasts the unusual attraction of a trail marked out in braille for the blind. At the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Hamden, they toured the labs and spoke with the technicians there.

The Nature Center has a further feature involving partnerships with various schools and colleges in the New Haven area. Ranger-Naturalist Bob Macklin and Coordinator John Dommers instill an early appreciation of nature in school age children by giving innumerable tours of the Center each year.

In the park-college partnership, Southern Connecticut State College students come to the Center during their spare time to help plan and work on Nature Center projects as part of their recreation courses, and for extra credit. This program is under the direction of Dr. Jack F. George, Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at SCSC.

All in all the West Rock Nature Recreation Center has a lot to offer and the people there hope the public will take advantage of their facilities. After all, that's who they are there for.

The Park Oaks Club introduces children to the out of doors. (M-T photo by Vittorio Comisso.)

Where To Buy Modern Times

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Fair Haven: Wil-Mor's, Grand-James; Marie's, Grand-Lloyd; Fair Haven Parents Ministry, Grand-James, Sal's Sandwich Shop, 188 Grand; Lenny's Market, St. Johns-Chestnut; Pequot Drug, Grand-East Pearl.

Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Davis-Waller. Goodrich-Newhall; Visel's Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market., 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Place; Windsor Drugs. Winchester-Webster; FH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

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On The Job

Labor Rep Speaks Piece

by Madeline Matchko
Director of COPE

I'm the political education director for the AFL-CIO in Connecticut and the Women's Activities Coordinator. COPE is the Committee on Political Education. It's a committee set up for the purpose of educating our members to the issues.

My main job is to work with all the city councils in the state. The labor movement in Connecticut is split up into 16 central labor councils like the one in New Haven. *My job is to go into each city council and to set up a political action committee and* to work on a year round basis on voter registration, get involved in primaries, whatever the issues might be.

We don't tell our members, "you should vote for so-and-so." The old-fashioned way of putting an ad in the paper was fine 25 to 30 years ago. Local so-and-so endorses John Smith, and people thought, well, if the local endorses him, he's good enough for me. It's no longer that easy and it shouldn't be that easy.

The Issues Count

I think the way we're doing it now is the right way to do it. Whether it's a congressman or a state assembly person or a president, we look at all the issues. People accuse us of always endorsing the Democrats. Well, they seem to do a hell of a lot more for what we stand for, for our kind of people, the working class. We have to end up endorsing them. Give us a good Republican--we'll endorse him.

We're involved in a computerized voter registration drive. We've got the names of the 155,000 union members in the state. In the old days, 13 years ago when I first came onto the staff, if we wanted to do a mailing state-wide, oh, God, we'd have volunteers in every city council, a minimum of 15-20 working night after night addressing and stuffing envelopes. In 1970 we did a mailing when we endorsed Daddario in the gubernatorial election. With a computer tape it took 7 hours for 155,000 pieces of mail. The computer is amazing.

Now the job gets harder. The busiest part right now is we're setting up united labor committees in every congressional district. When I say united labor, I'm talking about the AFL-CIO, the UAW and any other independent union, anybody who wants to work with us for the candidate in that district. We'll choose, and if the UAW and other organizations involved agree with us, then we'll pool our resources and work for that candidate.

Right now we're working for delegates to the state and national conventions. This is something that we have never done before. We had never gotten involved in internal politics, but we thought this was kind of ridiculous. We spend a lot of money, a lot of time and effort in getting candidates elected and yet we have nothing to say about choosing them. This year, I'm going to be a delegate to the state convention.

Labor Speaks for the People

I'm also a lobbyist at the State Legislature. What we try to do in the State Labor Council is to get a copy of every bill that's introduced into the Legislature. We read every bill. If we have any problems, we have an attorney here to translate for us. Bills that we're interested in - to support or be against - we testify at the hearings. I handle consumer bills and election bills.

It's part of COPE's job to tell our people to write to your senator, tell him to vote for this bill or against this bill, or whatever it might be. It's taken me 13 years, but our people write.

I can't think of any other organization that can speak for all of the people, the good welfare of all the people of this country, like labor. I see it every day. People say we're getting more conservative, and I'm *sure some of our people are. But up in the* General Assembly, go to a hearing on any bill, whether it's welfare or a consumer bill, daycare centers, I'm talking about a good people's bill. If it's a welfare bill, you'll find the Council of Churches and Legal Aid and you'll find labor there. On the consumer bills you'll find no one but labor and 15 anti-consumer organizations.

When we talk about jobs, some people think it's a selfish point of view--it isn't. We represent 13 million people in this country. So we're talking for all of them. Unemployment compensation to me is not a labor bill. It's not only union members who are collecting compensation, but there isn't another individual or organization at any of those hearings fighting for better unemployment compensation. This is why I believe in the movement so much.

Believes in Labor Movement

Prior to coming here, I worked as an organizer for the IUE. Mike Sviridoff, who was president at the time, asked me if I would come on the staff of the State Labor Council. I started as the Women's Activity Director and then we had a fellow working as COPE director, but we intermingled our work. After a year and a half he left and I took over both jobs.

I've been active in labor ever since I first came to Connecticut after I graduated from high school when I was 17 years old. My father was a coal miner. He's still living, retired, but he still pays his union dues.

I never thought of working full time, for labor, never. I just was as active as I could, every place I could. When I worked in plants I was a union steward. I worked in Underwood, did assembly work, worked on machines. That's one way of learning what the labor market is all about.

I'll belong to a union as long as I live. I pay union dues to my old local union, Local 244 IUE. I get nothing in return. They don't negotiate for me or anything. No *matter where I work, I don't think* I'll ever leave the labor movement, unless they throw me out.

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"Let's look at it this way... My wages are frozen also."

"Well, I started at the bottom too and I've been losing ground ever since..."